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(54) **AMINO ACID COMPOSITIONS**

(57) An amino acid composition comprising the following amino acids at the following molar ratio: proline (12.6 to 23.4), alanine (8.4 to 15.6), glycine (13.3 to 24.9), valine (8.2 to 15.4), threonine (5.0 to 9.4), leucine (4.3 to 8.1), histidine (1.8 to 11.9), serine (1.7 to 3.3), lysine (6.0 to 11.2), isoleucine (3.1 to 5.9), glutamic acid (2.2 to 10.4), arginine (2.4 to 4.6), phenylalanine (2.6 to 5.0), tyrosine (4.2 to 7.8) and trypsin (1.5 to 2.9). The composition supplements blood amino acids reduced during hard exercise and shows effects to improve motor function, to reduce fatigue after exercise and to help recovery from the fatigue.

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Description

Technical Field

This invention relates to an amino acid composition prepared based on the knowledge about amino acid components found in hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*) larval saliva. More particularly, this invention relates to an amino acid composition which supplements blood amino acids reduced during hard exercise and which could improve motor function, reduce exhaustion after exercise and help recovery from fatigue and a supplementary liquid comprising such amino acid composition.

Prior Art

There have been little reports on larvae of the hornet, in particular, on the larval saliva of the hornet. Thus, a composition of the larval saliva of the hornet has never been elucidated. There has been no knowledge about what nutrients provide sufficient energy for marvelous muscle endurance of the hornet.

The inventors of this invention have studied larval saliva of various kinds of hornets and determined a composition of the saliva. As a result, they have found that the saliva has an effect to control lipid and carbohydrate metabolism and elucidated the effective ingredients of the saliva. They have also found that an amino acid nutrient liquid secreted by the larval hornet controls the metabolism of lipid and carbohydrate during exercise when it is orally administered (see, for example, JP-A-3-128318, JP-A-4-95026, JP-A-4-112825 and JP-A-4-120020).

The inventors have already found that the hornet nutrient liquid restrains the formation of fatigue substances and prevents the reduction of blood sugar level during exercise and increases the motor function. They have also found that the mechanism of the action is in that the liquid accelerates the utilization of lipid to provide energy for exercise. It has been suggested that VAAM (*Vespa* Amino Acid Mixture), a main ingredient of the nutrient liquid would have various effects such as recovery from fatigue during exercise in addition to the actions mentioned above.

On the other hand, it has also been known that blood amino acid balance is significantly lost by exercise fatigue. It is believed that this is resulted from wear and breakdown of body tissues by the stress during exercise. However, so far, no attention has been paid to physiological meaning and significance of such lost of blood amino acid balance.

The inventors of the present invention have further studied the relationship between the amino acid composition of the VAAM and blood amino acid levels after exercise. As a result, they have found that the amino acid composition of the VAAM has very high correlation with the blood amino acid levels which are reduced according to fatigue after exercise. Namely, the higher the reduction of an amino acid level in blood due to fatigue, the higher the level of the amino acid in the VAAM.

Accordingly, it is believed that supplement of these amino acids would be essential for improvement of motor function and recovery from fatigue. As described above, the present invention has been completed based on the finding that human blood amino acid level reduced by exercise fatigue has very high correlation with the amino acid composition of the VAAM.

Disclosure of the Invention

An object of the present invention is to provide an amino acid composition which supplements blood amino acids which are reduced during hard exercise and has the ability to increase motor function, to reduce fatigue and to help recovery from fatigue, in particular a supplementary liquid.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a method which restrains the variation of blood amino acid levels during hard exercise to keep the blood amino acid level constant, and an amino acid composition which is used in the method, in particular a supplementary liquid.

The present invention provides an amino acid composition comprising the following amino acids at the molar ratio indicated below (hereinafter the composition may also be referred to as HVAAM).

Proline	12.6 to 23.4 moles
Alanine	8.4 to 15.6 moles
glycine	13.3 to 24.9 moles
valine	8.2 to 15.4 moles
threonine	5.0 to 9.4 moles
leucine	4.3 to 8.1 moles
histidine	1.8 to 11.9 moles
serine	1.7 to 3.3 moles
lysine	6.0 to 11.2 moles

	isoleucine	3.1 to 5.9 moles
	glutamic acid	2.2 to 10.4 moles
	arginine	2.4 to 4.6 moles
	phenylalanine	2.6 to 5.0 moles
5	tyrosine	4.2 to 7.8 moles
	and	
	trypsin	1.5 to 2.9 moles.

The present invention also provides a method for restraining the change in blood amino acid levels during exercise, which comprises administering HVAAM to a mammal.

Further, the present invention provides an amino acid composition for restraining the change in blood amino acid levels during exercise, which comprises amino acids in molar ratio equal to that in the VAAM, or between $\pm 30\%$ of the ratio in the VAAM (that is, between 30% greater than the ratio in the VAAM and 30% lower than the ratio in the VAAM), preferably $\pm 20\%$ of the ratio in the VAAM, more preferably $\pm 10\%$ of the ratio in the VAAM, that is, an amino acid composition comprising the following amino acids at the following molar ratio. Hereinafter, the amino acid compositions may also be generically named as "VAAM". The invention also provides a method for restraining the change in blood amino acid levels during exercise, which comprises administering the amino acid composition to a mammal.

	Proline	12.6 to 23.4 moles
20	Alanine	4.2 to 7.8 moles
	Glycine	13.3 to 24.9 moles
	Valine	4.1 to 7.7 moles
	Threonine	5.0 to 9.4 moles
	Leucine	4.3 to 8.1 moles
25	Histidine	1.8 to 3.8 moles
	Serine	1.7 to 3.3 moles
	Lysine	6.0 to 11.2 moles
	Isoleucine	3.1 to 5.9 moles
	glutamic acid	2.2 to 4.2 moles
30	arginine	2.4 to 4.6 moles
	phenylalanine	2.6 to 5.0 moles
	tyrosine	4.2 to 7.8 moles
	trypsin	1.5 to 2.9 moles

The present invention also relates to use of HVAAM for the preparation of an amino acid composition which can supplement blood amino acids reduced during hard exercise to improve motor function, to reduce the fatigue after exercise and to help recovery from the fatigue; use of VAAM for the preparation of an amino acid composition which can supplement blood amino acids reduced during hard exercise to improve motor function, to reduce the fatigue after exercise and to help recovery from the fatigue; use of HVAAM for the preparation of an amino acid composition which can restrain the change in blood amino acid levels to keep the levels constant; and, use of VAAM for the preparation of an amino acid composition which can restrain the change in blood amino acid levels to keep the levels constant.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 shows a relationship between the amino acid composition in the VAAM (mole%) (A) and the decrease in blood amino acid levels during exercise fatigue ($\mu\text{moles/L}$) (B).

Fig. 2 shows a correlation between the decrease in blood amino acid levels (%) caused by exercise fatigue and the amino acid content in the VAAM (mole%) as shown in Fig. 1. Numerals in the figure are in the order of from the highest amino acid content in the VAAM and the amino acids to which the signal (*) is added show significant decrease.

Fig. 3 is a graph which shows blood lactic acid levels (mean value) in the mice subjected to swimming after the administration of the composition of the present invention (HVAAM or VAAM). The vertical bars show standard deviation.

Fig. 4 is a graph which shows blood sugar (glucose) levels (mean value) in the mice subjected to swimming after the administration of the composition of the present invention (HVAAM or VAAM). The vertical bars show standard deviation.

Fig. 5 is a graph which shows blood free fatty acid levels (mean value) in the mice subjected to swimming after the administration of the composition of the present invention (HVAAM or VAAM). The vertical bars show standard deviation.

Fig. 6 is a graph which shows the decrease in blood amino acid levels (mean value) in the mice subjected to swimming after the administration of the composition of the present invention (HVAAM), CAAM, glucose or distilled water.

Fig. 7 is a graph which shows the change in blood amino acid levels (mean value) in the mice subjected to swimming after the administration of the composition of the present invention (HVAAM), CAAM, glucose or distilled water.

Fig. 8 is a graph which shows the change with time in blood glucose levels (mean value) in the rats subjected to running for a given time (a) or non-running (b) after the administration of the composition of the present invention (VAAM), CAAM or distilled water. The vertical bars show standard deviation.

Fig. 9 is a graph which shows the change with time in blood lactic acid levels (mean value) in the rats subjected to running for a given time (a) or non-running (b) after the administration of the composition of the present invention (VAAM), CAAM or distilled water. The vertical bars show standard deviation.

Fig. 10 is a graph which shows the change with time in blood non-esterified fatty acid levels (mean value) in the rats subjected to running for a given time (a) or non-running (b) after the administration of the composition of the present invention (VAAM), CAAM or distilled water. The vertical bars show standard deviation.

Fig. 11 is a graph which shows the change with time in blood amino acid levels in the rats subjected to running for a given time after the administration of the composition of the present invention (VAAM), CAAM or distilled water. The black bars show blood amino acid levels in the VAAM administered group, the striped bars those in the CAAM administered group and the white bars those in the distilled water administered group. The composition of blood amino acids is presented for (a) before the administration, (b) 30 minutes after the administration (just before running), (c) after running for 45 minutes and (d) after running for 90 minutes. The signal (*) shows significant difference compared with the VAAM administered group ($p < 0.05$).

Fig. 12 is a graph which shows the change with time in blood amino acid levels in the rats not subjected to running for a given time after the administration of the composition of the present invention (VAAM), CAAM or distilled water. The black bars show blood amino acid levels in the VAAM administered group, the striped bars those in the CAAM administered group and the white bars those in the distilled water administered group. The composition of blood amino acids is presented for (a) before the administration, (b) 30 minutes after the administration, (c) 75 minutes after the administration and (d) 120 minutes after the administration. The signal (*) shows significant difference compared with the VAAM administered group ($p < 0.05$).

Best modes for carrying out the invention

The amino acid composition (HVAAM) of the preferred embodiment of the invention comprises the following amino acids at the indicated molar ratio.

Proline	14.4 to 21.6 moles
Alanine	9.6 to 14.4 moles
Glycine	15.2 to 23.0 moles
Valine	9.4 to 14.2 moles
Threonine	5.8 to 8.7 moles
Leucine	5.0 to 7.5 moles
Histidine	2.0 to 11.0 moles
Serine	2.0 to 3.0 moles
Lysine	6.8 to 10.4 moles
Isoleucine	3.6 to 5.4 moles
glutamic acid	2.5 to 9.6 moles
arginine	2.8 to 4.2 moles
phenylalanine	3.0 to 4.6 moles
tyrosine	4.6 to 7.2 moles
trypsin	1.7 to 2.7 moles

The amino acid composition (HVAAM) of the more preferred embodiment of the invention comprises the following amino acids at the indicated molar ratio.

Proline	16.2 to 19.8 moles
Alanine	10.8 to 13.2 moles
Glycine	17.1 to 21.1 moles
Valine	10.6 to 13.0 moles
Threonine	6.4 to 8.0 moles
Leucine	5.5 to 6.8 moles

	Histidine	2.3 to 10.1 moles
	Serine	2.2 to 2.8 moles
	Lysine	7.7 to 9.5 moles
	Isoleucine	4.0 to 5.0 moles
5	glutamic acid	2.8 to 8.8 moles
	arginine	3.1 to 3.9 moles
	phenylalanine	3.4 to 4.2 moles
	tyrosine	5.4 to 6.6 moles
	trypsin	1.9 to 2.5 moles

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In the composition of the present invention (HVAAM), the molar ratio of histidine is preferably 6.4 to 11.9 moles, more preferably 7.2 to 11.0 moles and most preferably 8.1 to 10.1 moles, and that of glutamic acid is preferably 5.6 to 10.4 moles, more preferably 6.4 to 9.6 moles and most preferably 7.2 to 8.8 moles.

15 Amino acids used in the amino acid composition of the present invention are preferably L-amino acids. The amino acid composition of the present invention may comprise, in addition to the amino acids mentioned above, methionine (preferably 0.3 to 0.7 mole%, more preferably 0.4 to 0.6 mole%), aspartic acid (preferably 0.1 to 0.3 mole%), taurine (Tau) (preferably 3 mole% or less), phosphoric acid ethanolamine (P-EtAm) (preferably 2 mole% or less), cystine (Cys) (preferably 0.5 mole% or less), β -alanine (β -Ala) (preferably 1 mole% or less), γ -amino butyric acid (GABA) (preferably 0.5 mole% or less), ornithine (Orn) or ethanolamine (EtAm) (preferably 3 mole% or less), ammonia (NH₃) (preferably 2 mole% or less), 1-methyl histidine (1-MeHis) (preferably 3 mole% or less), and 3-methyl histidine (3-MeHis) (preferably 1 mole% or less).

25 The amino acid composition of the present invention may easily prepared by mixing the above-mentioned amino acids which are commercially available at the above-mentioned ratio. The supplementary liquid of the present invention may easily be prepared by dissolving the amino acid composition in distilled water. The amino acid composition of the present invention may usually be in the form of powder for convenience, and be dissolved in distilled water when necessary. Temperature at which the composition of the invention is prepared or stored is not limited to specific one but preferably a room temperature or below. The composition of the invention is bitter a little but does not show toxicity at all when it is orally administered to mice at the dose of 20 g/kg. It has LD₅₀ of much higher than 20 g/kg.

30 The amino acid composition of the present invention is useful as a medicine or foods such as beverages. If it is used as a medicine, dosage forms are not limited to specific ones and it can be administered in the form of conventional administration such as oral or rectal administration, or other administration such as injection and infusion. If it is orally administered, it may be in the form of a composition having the above formulation or in the form of such formulations as tablets, capsules, powders, troche, and syrups with pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient. However, solid formulations such as tablets and powders sometimes are hard to be adsorbed. Accordingly, oral administration in the form of for example liquid forms is preferred. In that case, it is preferably administered in the form of an aqueous solution comprising the amino acids and appropriate additives such as salts (e.g., sodium chloride), buffers, chelating agents. Injections may be prepared by adding appropriate buffers or isotonicizing agents to the amino acid composition and dissolving them in sterilized distilled water, and they may be administered through intravenous drip infusion.

35 If it is used as foods, an appropriate flavor may be added to prepare drinkable preparations such as refreshing beverages, powdered drinks (e.g., encapsulated powders prepared by spray drying method, freeze drying method, or microfine powder method), or tablets.

40 The composition of the present invention is very low toxic and dose amounts may vary widely. Dose amounts vary depending on administration methods and purposes, and the amounts usually are in the range of from 1 to 12 g/dose, and from 3 to 18 g/day, preferably 2 to 4 g/dose, and from 6 to 12 g/day, as a solid content of the amino acid composition.

45 If it is used as a supplementary liquid for before, during or after exercise, it is administered one to three times a day in the amount of from 200 to 500 ml per day, as 0.8 to 1.5% by weight solution. If it is used as injection, it is administered in the amount of from 100 to 400 ml, preferably from 150 to 300 ml per dose as 0.8 to 1.5% by weight solution.

50 Examples

The present invention will now be explained in detail with reference to test examples and formulation examples to which the present invention is not limited.

55 Test Example 1 (Running test in human)

This test was conducted to examine the change in the composition of blood amino acids before and after running in human.

(1) Quantitative analysis of blood amino acids

A blood sample (0.1 ml) was taken, to which the same amount of 1N perchloric acid was added to denature proteins and centrifuged. The supernatant (50 μ l) was taken, to which one ml of a sample diluter for amino acid analysis was added to prepare a sample for the analysis. Amino acid analyzer (HITACHI 835) and ninhydrin reaction were used.

(2) Test in human

Test subjects were subjected to running for 90 minutes on a treadmill under the load of 70% VO_2max (70% of the maximum oxygen intake) at room temperature (24°C) and then they were subjected to bicycle ergometer exercise for 90 minutes. Bloods were taken before and after the exercise and examined for the concentration of amino acids. The results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Amino acids	Concentration of amino acid ($\mu\text{mole/l}$)			
	Before exercise (A)	After exercise (B)	Decrease (A-B)	Decrease $[(A-B)/A] \times 100$
Pro	160.70			
Ala **	309.50	222.50	87.00	28.11
Gly **	206.20	140.20	66.00	32.01
Val **	214.50	150.00	64.50	30.07
Thr **	130.70	106.10	24.60	18.82
Leu **	114.00	92.40	21.60	18.95
His **	62.40	42.00	20.40	32.70
Ser **	113.40	101.10	12.30	10.85
Lys	147.90	135.90	12.00	8.11
Ile **	67.00	55.30	11.70	17.46
Glu **	22.40	16.10	6.30	28.13
Arg	63.80	57.80	6.00	9.40
Met	24.90	23.40	1.50	6.02
Cys	43.70	43.10	0.60	1.37
Asp	2.80	4.30	-1.50	-53.57
Phe	45.60	48.60	-3.00	-6.58
Tyr	53.90	59.90	-6.00	-11.13
Trp	36.80			

Correlation between change in blood amino acids by exercise and amino acid composition of the VAAM

There were observed three groups of amino acids in terms of blood concentrations after exercise, a first group wherein blood concentration significantly decreased, a second one wherein blood concentration did not change very much, and a third one wherein blood concentration slightly increased

Amino acids which decreased with significant difference (0.05<p) (** was added) are alanine, glycine, valine, threonine, leucine, histidine, serine, isoleucine, glutamic acid, etc. Tyrosine increased with significant difference. Phenylalanine and aspartic acid increased without significant difference. Lysine, arginine, methionine cystine and tryptophan decreased without significant difference. Among them, the amino acids which decreased with significant difference are those having high levels in the VAAM (see Fig. 1). In Fig. 1, A represents amino acid components (mole%) and B the decrease in blood amino acid concentration ($\mu\text{mole/l}$) after exercise shown in Table 1.

The results show the usefulness of the VAAM as an amino acid composition for exercise.

Example 1

Preparation of human amino acid composition (HVAAM) based on the correlation between change in blood amino acids by exercise and amino acid composition of the VAAM, and the effects of the preparation

As Fig. 1 suggests, the concentration (A) of alanine and valine in the VAAM are lower than the decrease (B) in human after exercise. On the other hand, histidine and glutamic acid do not have any effect on lipid induction, which was previously reported. Taking these points into account, the decrease (%) in blood concentration of each amino acid after exercise was plotted against molar ratio of the amino acid in the VAAM to give Fig. 2. Fig. 2 shows that the decrease (%) in blood amino acids after exercise approximately correlates with molar ratio of the amino acids in the VAAM ($r = 0.84$). The results strongly suggest the usefulness of the VAAM during exercise. However, as seen from Fig. 2, alanine, valine, histidine and glutamic acid are decreased significantly coming away from the correlation regression line. It is therefore expected that the increase of these amino acid contents in the VAAM to meet the correlation would make an amino acid composition having much more excellent ability to improve motor function and to help recovery from fatigue than the VAAM.

The decrease of histidine, glutamic acid, valine and alanine is 3.5, 2.5, 2.0 and 2.0 times, respectively, as large as that expected from the correlation regression line of Fig. 2. The amino acid composition of the present invention is prepared by increasing the contents of these four amino acids in an amino acid composition having the same amino acid composition of the VAAM

The addition of these amino acids makes the amino acid composition more suitable for motor function and recovery from fatigue in human. One example (HVAAMA) of such amino acid compositions (HVAAM) is shown in Table 2.

Further, since histidine and glutamic acid are relatively low in content and effect of lipid induction, it is possible to obtain the intended objects without the addition of these two amino acids. One example (HVAAMB) of such amino acid compositions is also shown in Table 2. In fact, oral administration of 300 ml of 1.5% by weight aqueous solution of the amino acid compositions A and B in Table 2 after exercise significantly improved a sense of fatigue and muscle pain after exercise.

Table 2

Amino acid	Amino acid concentration (molar ratio)			
	VAAM	HVAAMA	HVAAMB	CAAM
Pro	18.00	18.00	18.00	8.50
Ala	6.00	12.00	12.00	4.50
Gly	19.10	19.10	19.10	4.50
Val	5.90	11.80	11.80	5.50
Thr	7.20	7.20	7.20	2.50
Leu	6.20	6.20	6.20	8.50
His	2.60	9.10	2.60	2.50
Ser	2.50	2.50	2.50	8.00
Lys	8.60	8.60	8.60	7.00
Ile	4.50	4.50	4.50	5.50
Glu	3.20	8.00	3.20	19.60
Arg	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.00
Met	0.50	0.50	0.50	2.50
Asp	0.20	0.20	0.20	7.50
Phe	3.80	3.80	3.80	4.00
Tyr	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00
Tip	2.20	2.20	2.20	1.00
Cys	-	-	-	0.40

In the amino acid compositions of the present invention, the molar ratio of each amino acid may vary within $\pm 30\%$, preferably $\pm 20\%$ more preferably $\pm 10\%$ of the molar ratio of each amino acid in HVAAMA and HVAAMB in Table 2.

Test Example 2 (Effects to decrease exercise load during endurance exercise)

This test was conducted to confirm that the administration of the amino acid composition of the present invention (HVAAM) before exercise decreased the exercise load during endurance exercise on mice.

The experiments were conducted according to the method disclosed in Japanese Journal of Physical Fitness Sports Medicine, 1995, 44:225-238. Namely, untrained mice (male; ddY), aged 5 weeks, 10 animals for each group, were fasted for 16 hours at room temperature and then orally administered a solution containing 1.8% (by weight) VAAM or HVAAMB in Table 2 at 37.5 μ l per gram body weight. The mice were then allowed to rest for 30 minutes.

The mice were subjected to swimming exercise for 30 minutes in a river pool (a cylindrical water bath of 32 cm in diameter and 30 cm in depth) set at constant water flow rate of 8 m/min by a water circulation device and maintained at 35°C. After the swimming exercise, blood lactic acid, blood sugar (glucose) and blood free fatty acid in the mice were assayed. The results are shown in Tables 3, 4 and 5.

As compared with the VAAM administered mice, the HVAAMB administered mice showed lower blood lactic acid (Fig. 3), but higher blood sugar (Fig. 4) and higher blood free fatty acid (Fig. 5). The results show that the HVAAM decreases the exercise load caused by the exercise much more than the VAAM

Test Example 3 (Effects of restraining the change in blood amino acid composition and keeping it constant)

This test was conducted to confirm that the administration of the amino acid composition of the present invention (HVAAM) before exercise restrained the decrease of blood amino acids during exercise on mice.

The experiments were conducted according to the method disclosed in Japanese Journal of Physical Fitness Sports Medicine, 1995, 44:225-238. Namely, untrained mice (male; ddY), aged 5 weeks, 10 animals for each group, were fasted for 16 hours at room temperature and then orally administered a solution containing 1.8% (by weight) HVAAMB in Table 2, CAAM (casein amino acid mixture) or glucose, or distilled water at 37.5 μ l per gram body weight. The mice were then allowed to rest for 30 minutes.

The mice were subjected to swimming exercise for 30 minutes in the river pool. After the swimming exercise, the decrease in blood total amino acids in mice are shown in Fig. 6, and the change in blood amino acids for each nutrient administered group against the control group (distilled water administered group) is shown in Fig. 7.

As shown in Fig. 6, the HVAAMB administered mice showed lower blood total amino acid levels, i.e., 1/2 of the CAAM administered mice, 1/2.37 of the glucose administered mice, and 1/2.1 of the water administered mice.

As seen from Fig. 7, the administration of the HVAAMB decreased slightly blood levels of arginine, histidine, methionine, and aspartic acid. However, it did not decrease so much blood levels of other amino acids, in particular, glycine, lysine, valine, glutamic acid and threonine as compared with the administration of CAAM or glucose. The results suggest that oxidation of fatty acid be promoted by the increase of blood non-esterified fatty acid concentration, which result in suppression of the use of the amino acids in TCA cycle.

Test Example 4 (Effects of restraining the change in blood amino acid composition and keeping it constant)

This test was conducted to confirm that the administration of the VAAM before exercise restrained the decrease of blood amino acid concentrations during exercise on rats.

Rats (Sprague Dawley rats; male)(aged 6 weeks and weighing 190 g (average), 8 animals for each group) were fasted for overnight and then orally administered 0.4 ml of a solution containing 3.8% (by weight) VAAM in Table 2, or CAAM (casein amino acid mixture), or distilled water. The rats were then allowed to rest for 30 minutes at room temperature.

The rats were subjected to running exercise for 90 minutes on a motor-driven rodent treadmill with an incline of 7° at the rate of 23m/min. Blood samples were taken just before the administration of the test liquid (-30 min), at the start (0 min), half-way through (45 min) and at the end (90 min) of running to determine lactic acid, glucose and non-esterified fatty acid (NEFA). Another group of rats was treated with the same procedures except that they were not subjected to the running exercise. The results are shown in Figs. 8 to 12.

Figs 8 to 10 show the effects of the administration of the VAAM, CAAM or distilled water to rats on blood glucose levels, blood lactic acid levels and blood non-esterified fatty acid levels. In Figs. 8 to 10, (a) represents the running group, and (b) the non-running group. (*) represents significant difference ($p < 0.05$) as compared with the VAAM administered group.

As seen from Fig. 8(a), the blood glucose levels in the CAAM and distilled water administered groups increased slightly, but then decreased significantly after 45 and 90 min of running exercise. In contrast, the blood glucose levels in

the VAAM administered group did not fall after 45 min of running exercise and were significantly higher than those of the other groups ($p < 0.05$) after 90 min of running. Any significant change ($p < 0.05$) in blood glucose levels was not found in the non-running group (Fig. 8(b)).

As seen from Fig. 9(a), the blood lactic acid levels in the CAAM and distilled water administered groups increased significantly ($p < 0.05$) after 45 min of running exercise but decreased after 90 min of running. In contrast, the blood lactic acid levels in the VAAM administered group did not significantly ($p < 0.05$) change during the test. Any significant ($p < 0.05$) change in blood lactic acid levels was not found in the non-running group (Fig. 9(b)).

Further, as seen from Fig. 10, the blood non-esterified fatty acid levels decreased in all the groups before the administration (0 min) because of fasting but increased significantly ($p < 0.05$) after 45 min of running exercise in the CAAM and VAAM administered groups with the VAAM group being significantly higher than the CAAM group. Any significant change in blood non-esterified fatty acid levels was not found in the non-running group (Fig. 10(b)).

Figs. 11 and 12 show the effects of the administration of the VAAM, CAAM or distilled water on blood amino acid levels in rats. In Figs. 11 and 12, the black bar represents blood amino acid levels in the VAAM administered group, the striped bar those in the CAAM administered group and the white bar those in the distilled water administered group.

In Fig. 11 (the running group), (a) represents blood amino acid levels before the administration, (b) those after 30 min of the administration (0 min of running), (c) those after 45 min of running, and (d) those after 90 min of running. In Fig. 12 (the non-running group), (a) represents blood amino acid levels before the administration, (b) those after 30 min of the administration, (c) those after 45 min of the administration, and (d) those after 120 min of the administration. (*) represents significant difference ($p < 0.05$) as compared with the VAAM administered group.

As seen from Figs. 11(a) and 12(a), no significant difference in blood amino acid levels was found in the three groups before the administration of the test liquid.

Blood amino acid levels in the rats of the running group significantly increased after 30 min of the administration. But, the levels of glutamine, methionine and cystine in the VAAM administered group and cystine and glycine in the CAAM administered group did not increase (Fig. 11(b)).

The increase of blood amino acid levels in the rats of the non-running group after 30 min of the administration of the VAAM or CAAM are similar to that in the rats of the running group (Fig. 12(b)).

Blood amino acid levels decreased after 45 min of running in all the groups except for tyrosine in the VAAM administered group (Fig. 11(c)). The blood levels of glycine, alanine, valine, threonine, tyrosine, lysine and proline in the VAAM administered group were significantly higher than those of the water administered group. The blood levels of glycine, threonine, tyrosine and proline in the VAAM administered group were significantly higher than those of the CAAM administered group. The blood levels of valine and lysine in the CAAM administered group were significantly higher than those of the water administered group, but the blood levels of any amino acids in the CAAM administered group were not higher than those of the VAAM administered group.

In the non-running group, the levels of alanine and lysine did not increase in the VAAM administered group (Fig. 12(c)). In the VAAM administered group, the level of tyrosine in the non-running group was lower than that in running group. However, in the CAAM or water administered group, the level of tyrosine in the running group was higher than that in the non-running group.

At the end of the running, the levels of valine, leucine, serine, threonine, tyrosine and lysine in the VAAM administered group decreased little as compared with those after 45 min of running (Fig. 11(d)). The levels of threonine, tyrosine, lysine and proline in the VAAM administered group were significantly higher than those after 90 min of running in the water administered group. In the non-running group, the levels of threonine and proline in the VAAM administered group were higher than those in the running group after 120 min of the administration of distilled water.

The above results show that the administration of the VAAM restrains the consumption of amino acids caused by exercise and therefore the VAAM can restrain the induction of fatigue by exercise.

Industrial applicability

The amino acid composition of the present invention supplements blood amino acids reduced during hard exercise and shows effects to improve motor function, to reduce fatigue after exercise and to help recovery from the fatigue. The administration of the composition of the present invention restrains the consumption of amino acids caused by exercise and the induction of fatigue by exercise.

Claims

1. An amino acid composition comprising the following amino acids at the following molar ratio:

proline	12.6 to 23.4 moles
alanine	8.4 to 15.6 moles

	glycine	13.3 to 24.9 moles
	valine	8.2 to 15.4 moles
	threonine	5.0 to 9.4 moles
	leucine	4.3 to 8.1 moles
5	histidine	1.8 to 11.9 moles
	serine	1.7 to 3.3 moles
	lysine	6.0 to 11.2 moles
	isoleucine	3.1 to 5.9 moles
	glutamic acid	2.2 to 10.4 moles
10	arginine	2.4 to 4.6 moles
	phenylalanine	2.6 to 5.0 moles
	tyrosine	4.2 to 7.8 moles
	and	
15	trypsin	1.5 to 2.9 moles.

2. The amino acid composition of claim 1 comprising the following amino acids at the following molar ratio:

	proline	14.4 to 21.6 moles
	alanine	9.6 to 14.4 moles
20	glycine	15.2 to 23.0 moles
	valine	9.4 to 14.2 moles
	threonine	5.8 to 8.7 moles
	leucine	5.0 to 7.5 moles
	histidine	2.0 to 11.0 moles
25	serine	2.0 to 3.0 moles
	lysine	6.8 to 10.4 moles
	isoleucine	3.6 to 5.4 moles
	glutamic acid	2.5 to 9.6 moles
	arginine	2.8 to 4.2 moles
30	phenylalanine	3.0 to 4.6 moles
	tyrosine	4.6 to 7.2 moles
	and	
	trypsin	1.7 to 2.7 moles.

3. The amino acid composition of claim 1 comprising the following amino acids at the following molar ratio:

	proline	16.2 to 19.8 moles
	alanine	10.8 to 13.2 moles
	glycine	17.1 to 21.1 moles
40	valine	10.6 to 13.0 moles
	threonine	6.4 to 8.0 moles
	leucine	5.5 to 6.8 moles
	histidine	2.3 to 10.1 moles
	serine	2.2 to 2.8 moles
45	lysine	7.7 to 9.5 moles
	isoleucine	4.0 to 5.0 moles
	glutamic acid	2.8 to 8.8 moles
	arginine	3.1 to 3.9 moles
	phenylalanine	3.4 to 4.2 moles
50	tyrosine	5.4 to 6.6 moles
	and	
	trypsin	1.9 to 2.5 moles.

4. The amino acid composition of claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of histidine is 6.4 to 11.9 moles and that of glutamic acid is 5.6 to 10.4 moles.

5. A supplementary liquid which comprises the amino acid composition as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4.

6. Use of the amino acid composition as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4 for the preparation of an amino acid composition which can supplement blood amino acids reduced during hard exercise to improve motor function, to reduce the fatigue after exercise and to help recovery from the fatigue.

5 7. Use of an amino acid composition comprising the following amino acids at the following molar ratio for the preparation of an amino acid composition which can supplement blood amino acids reduced during hard exercise to improve motor function, to reduce the fatigue after exercise and to help recovery from the fatigue:

	proline	12.6 to 23.4 moles
10	alanine	4.2 to 7.8 moles
	glycine	13.3 to 24.9 moles
	valine	4.1 to 7.7 moles
	threonine	5.0 to 9.4 moles
	leucine	4.3 to 8.1 moles
15	histidine	1.8 to 3.8 moles
	serine	1.7 to 3.3 moles
	lysine	6.0 to 11.2 moles
	isoleucine	3.1 to 5.9 moles
	glutamic acid	2.2 to 4.2 moles
20	arginine	2.4 to 4.6 moles
	phenylalanine	2.6 to 5.0 moles
	tyrosine	4.2 to 7.8 moles
	and	
25	trypsin	1.5 to 2.9 moles.

8. The use of the amino acid composition as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4 for the preparation of an amino acid composition which can restrain the change in blood amino acid level to keep the level constant.

30 9. The use of the amino acid composition as defined in any one of claim 7 for the preparation of an amino acid composition which can restrain the change in blood amino acid level to keep the level constant.

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FIG. 1

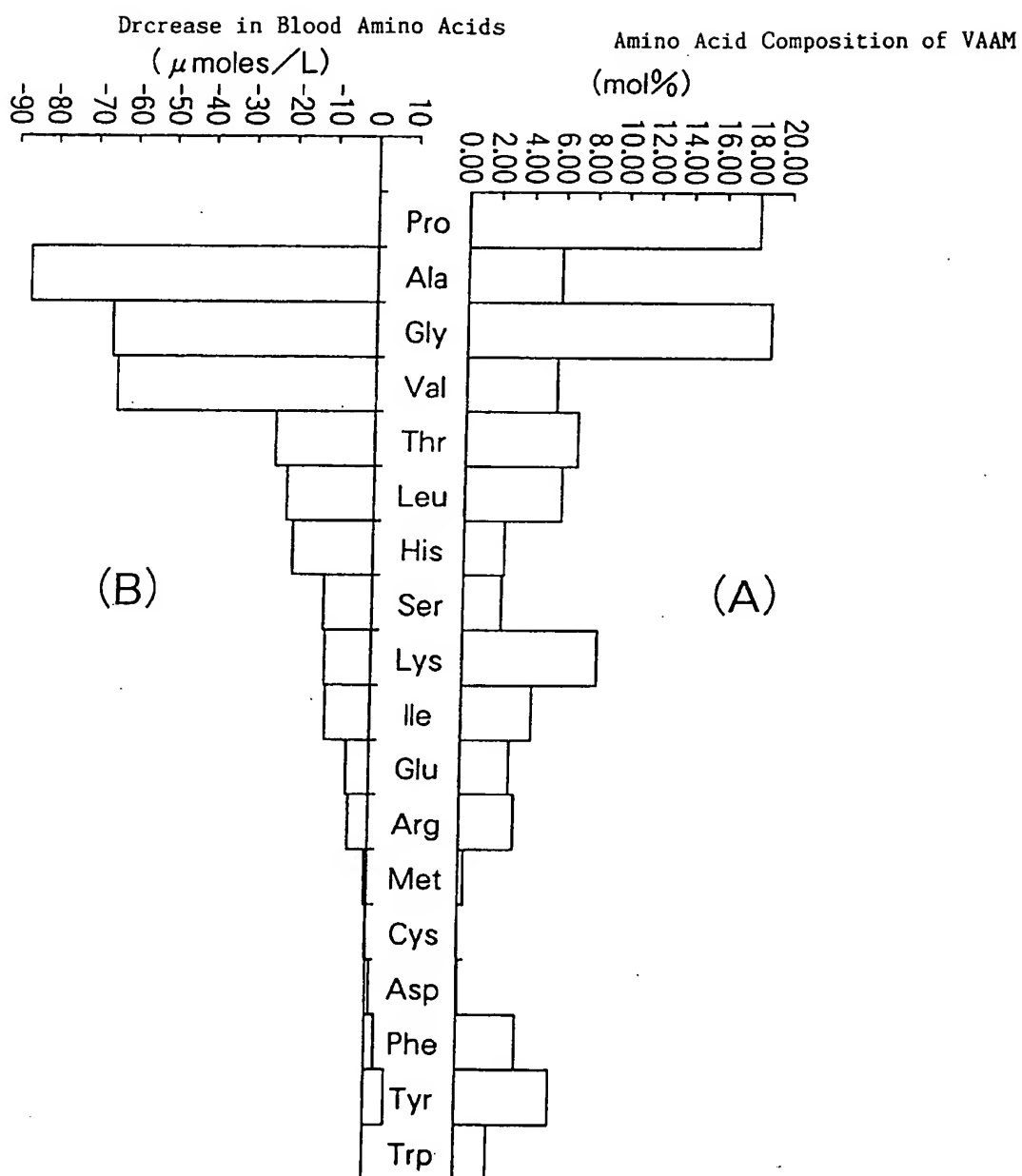


FIG. 2

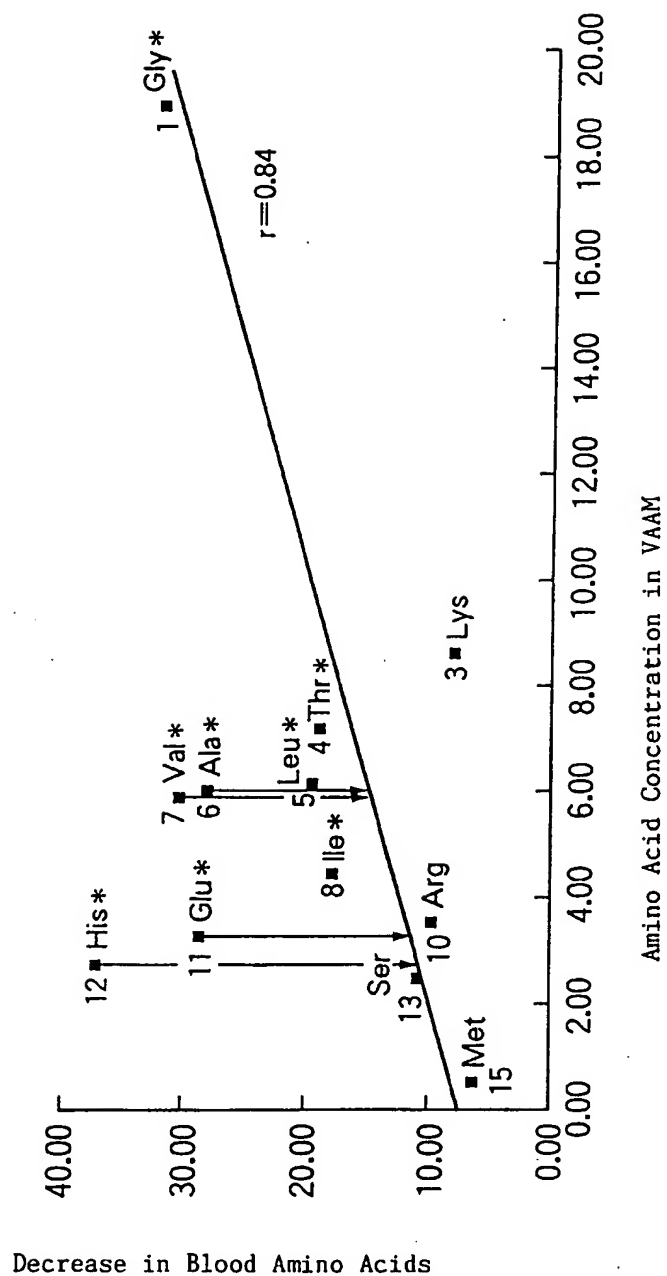


FIG. 3

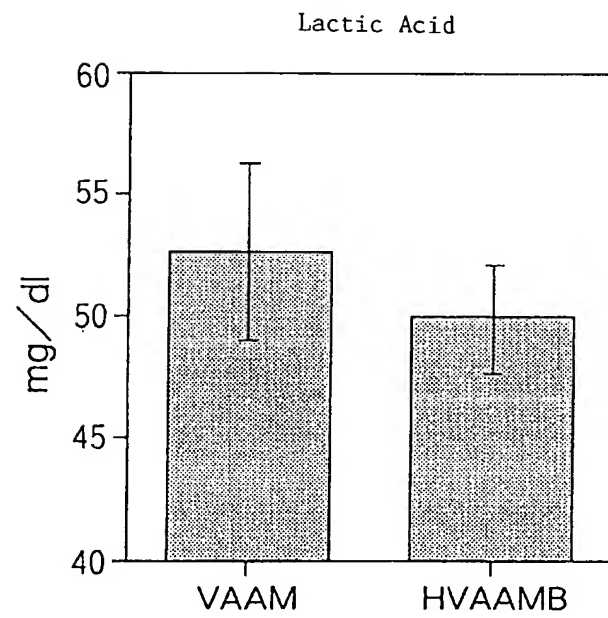


FIG. 4

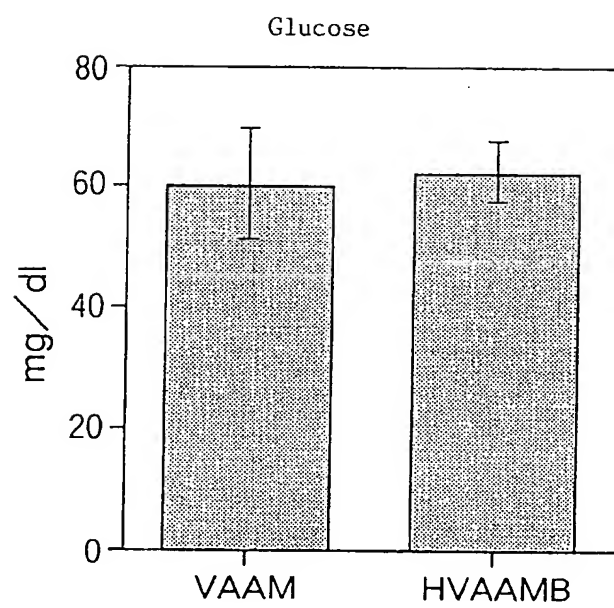


FIG. 5

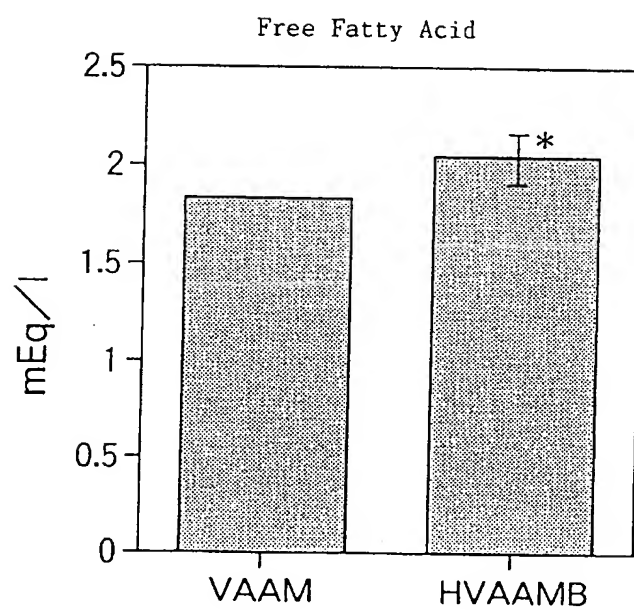


FIG. 6

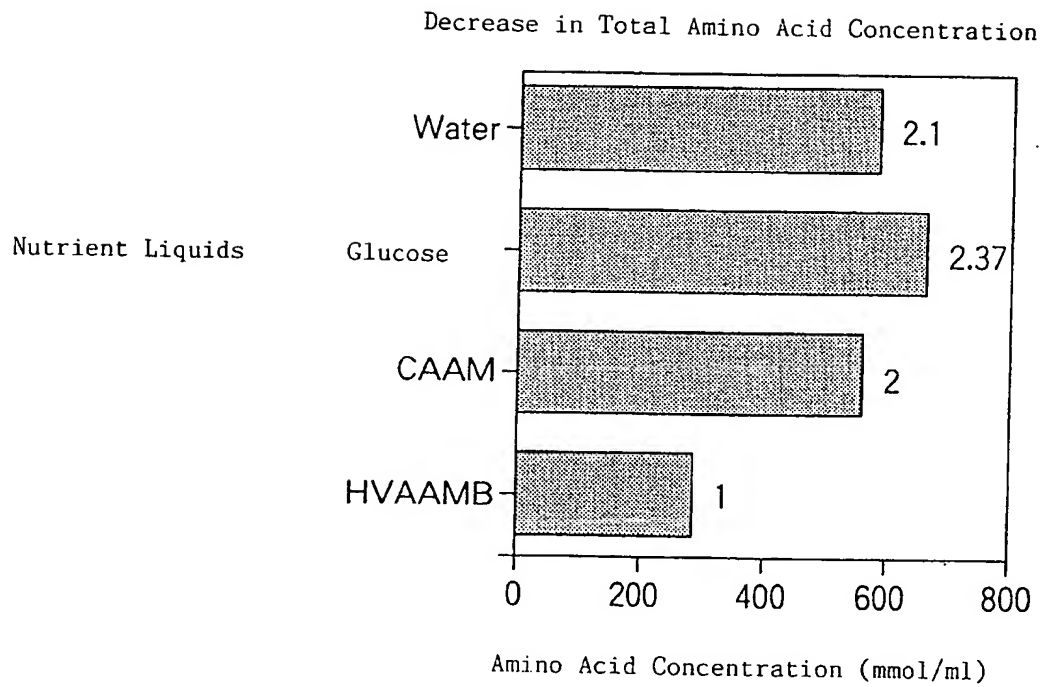


FIG. 7

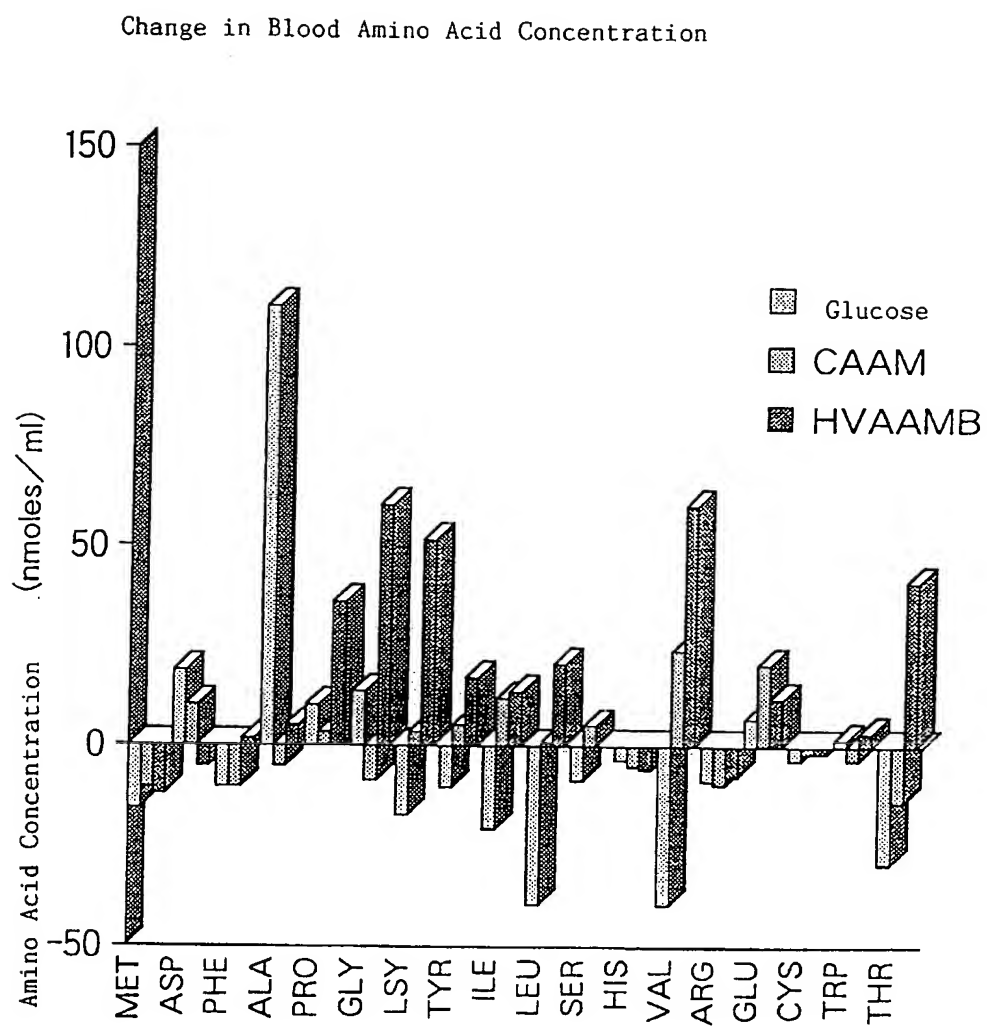


FIG. 8

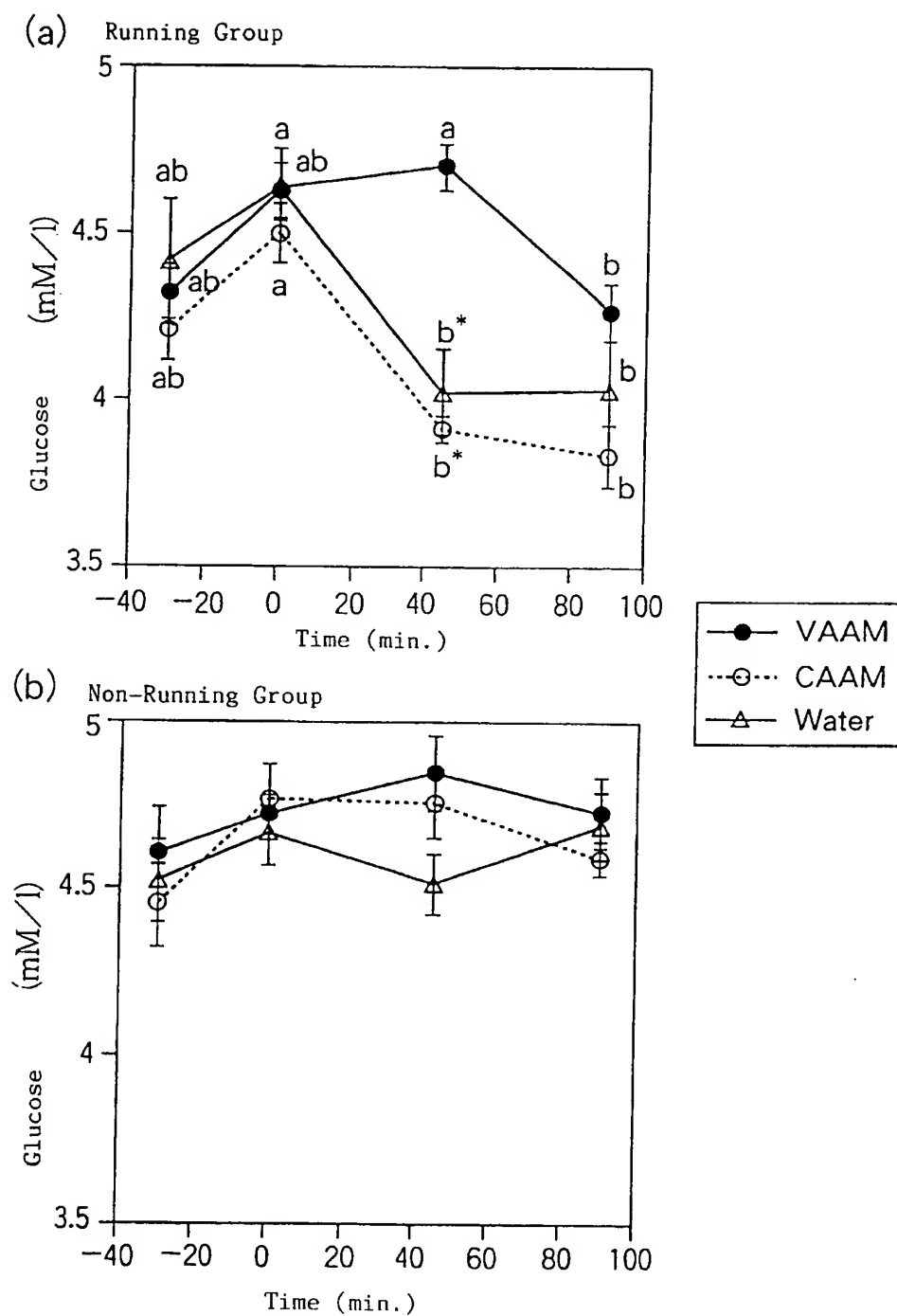


FIG. 9

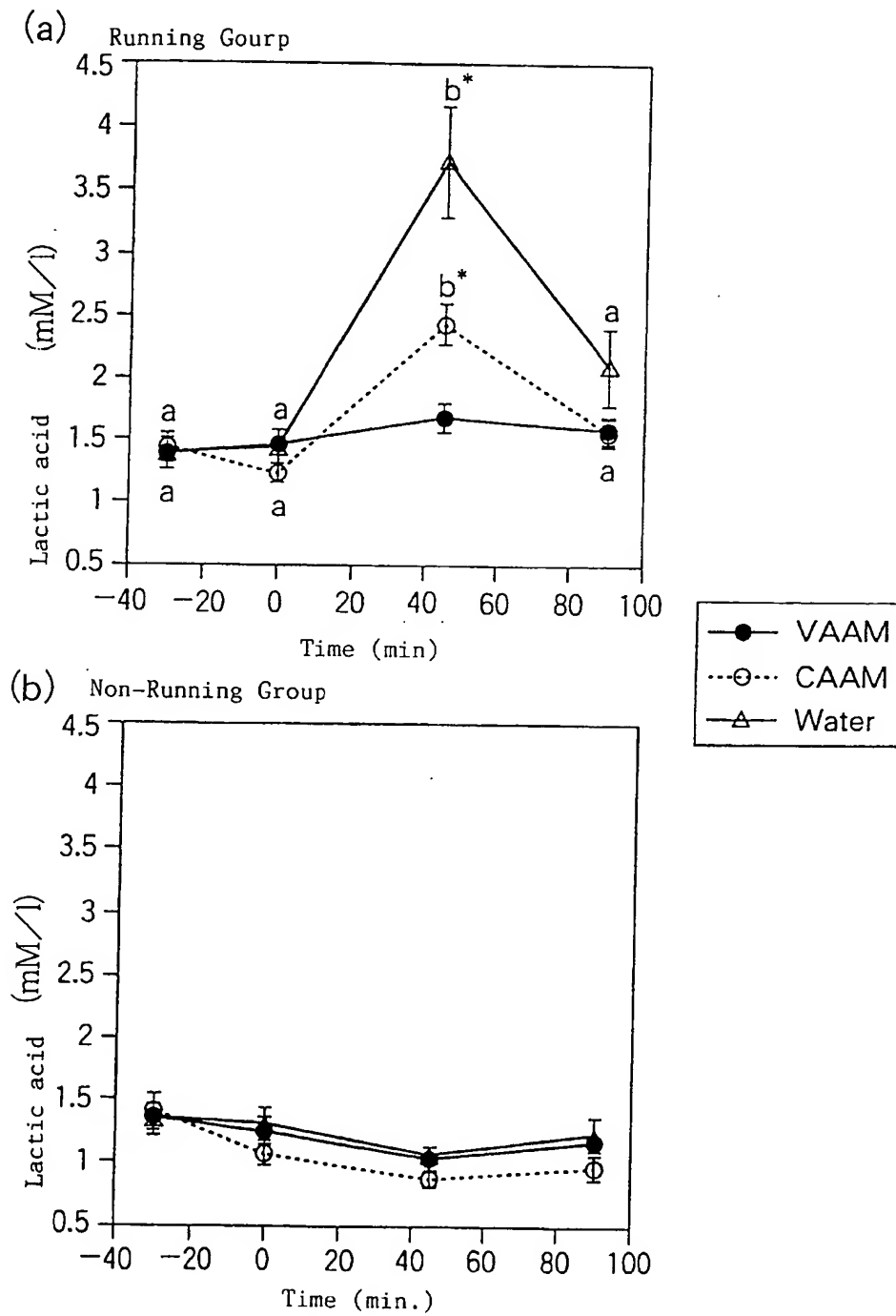


FIG. 10

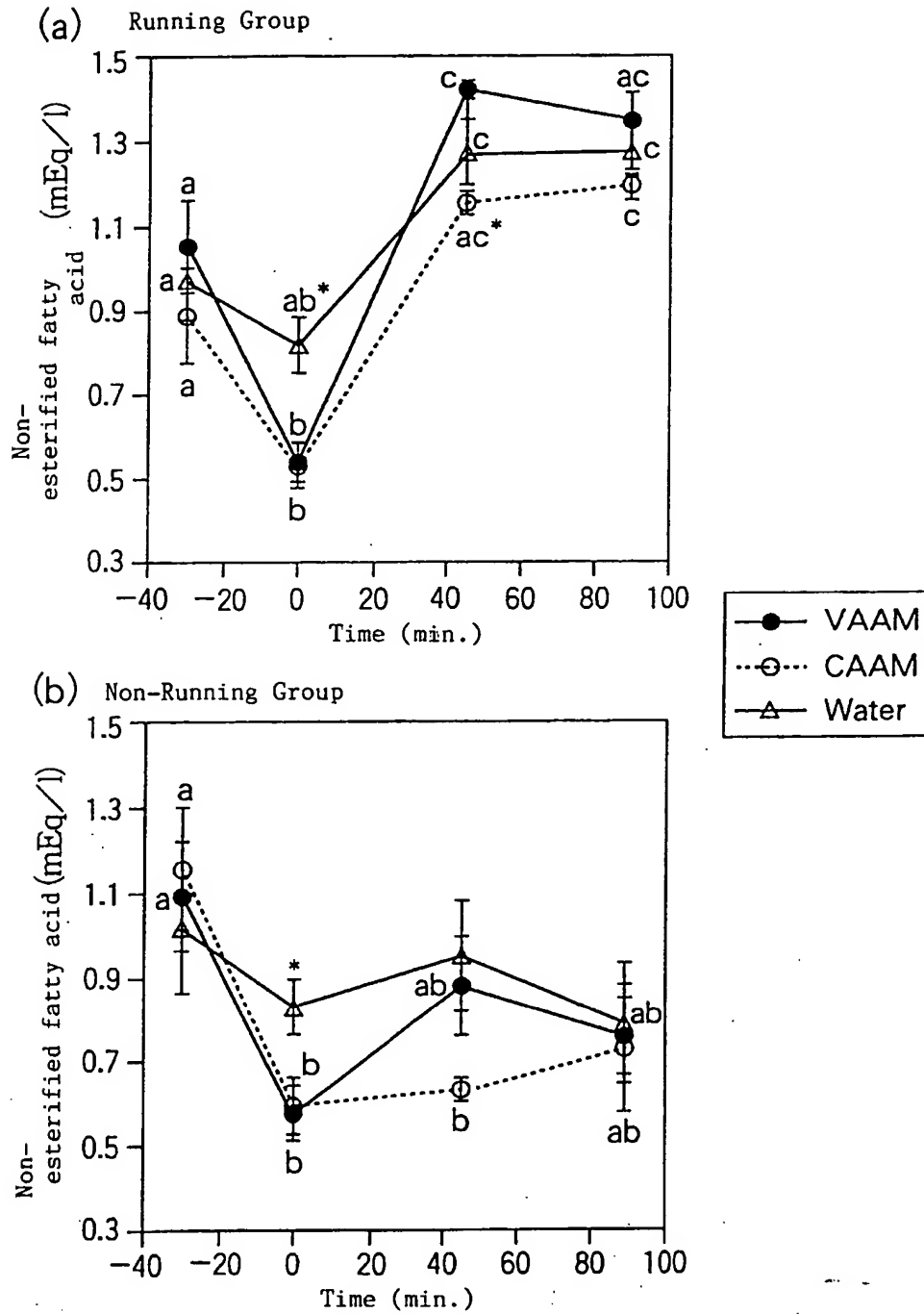


FIG. 11

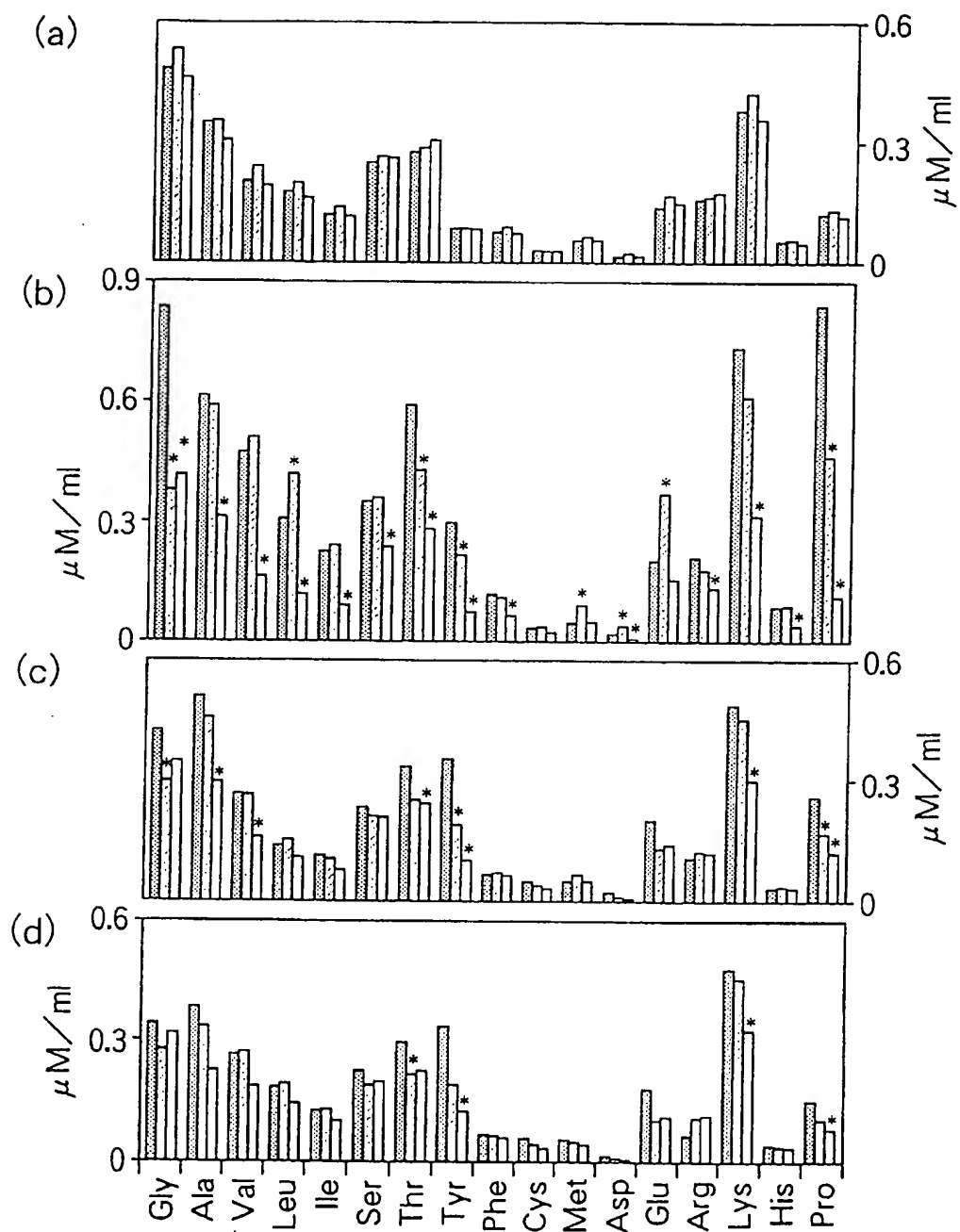
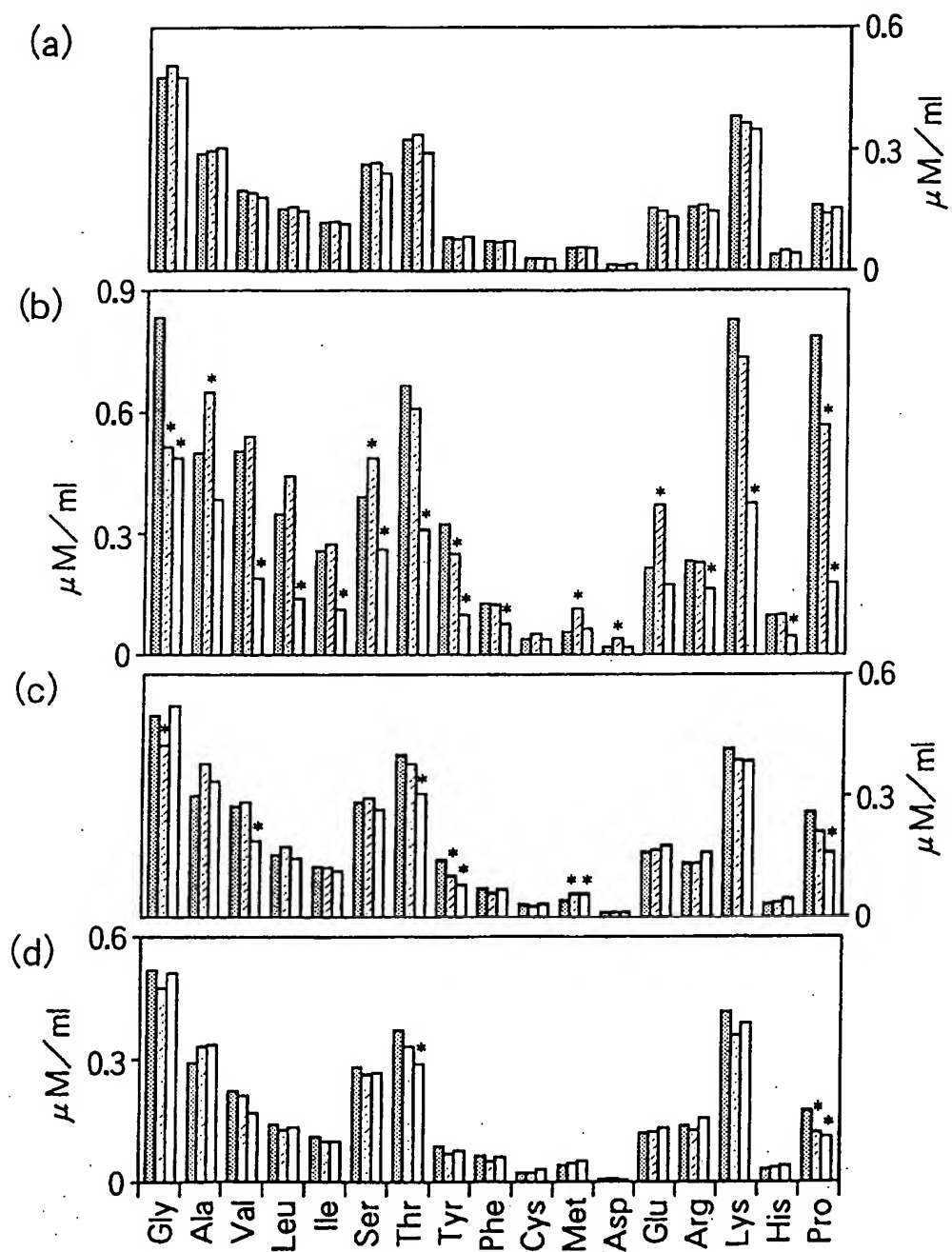


FIG. 12



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP97/00028

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int. Cl ⁶ A61K38/48, A61K31/195, A61K31/395, A61K31/40 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int. Cl ⁶ A61K38/48, A61K31/195, A61K31/395, A61K31/40 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) CAS ONLINE		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP, 3-128318, A (The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research), May 31, 1991 (31. 05. 91) (Family: none) & Chem. abst., Vol. 115, No. 120096, 1991 (Columbus, OH, USA)	1 - 9
A	JP, 4-95026, A (The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research), March 27, 1992 (27. 03. 92) (Family: none) & Chem. abst., Vol. 117, No. 33717, 1992 (Columbus, OH, USA)	1 - 9
A	JP, 4-120020, A (The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research), April 14, 1992 (14. 04. 92) (Family: none) & Chem. abst., Vol. 117, No. 110683, 1992 (Columbus, OH, USA)	1 - 9
P,A	JP, 8-198748, A (Ajinomoto Co., Inc.), August 6, 1996 (06. 08. 96) (Family: none) & Chem. abst., Vol. 125, No. 220495	1 - 9
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search April 7, 1997 (07. 04. 97)		Date of mailing of the international search report April 15, 1997 (15. 04. 97)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office Facsimile No.		Authorized officer Telephone No.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP97/00028

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	GARTHWAITE, M. Susan et al., "Increased Permability to Sugar Following Muscle Contraction." Journal of Biological Chemistry, 1982, Vol. 257, No. 9, p. 5008-5012	1 - 9

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1992)



European Patent
Office

**SUPPLEMENTARY
EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

0873754

Application Number
EP 97 90 0113

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
T	DATABASE CHEMABS CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS SERVICE, COLUMBUS, OHIO, US AN: 127:16965, H. TSUCHITA ET AL: "Effects of a Vespa amino acid mixture identical to hornet larval saliva on the blood biochemical indices of running rats" XP002090086 & Nutr. Res. (N. Y.), (1997), 17(6), 999-1012 * abstract *	1-11	A61K38/48 A61K31/195 A61K31/395 A61K31/40
A	--- DATABASE CHEMABS CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS SERVICE, COLUMBUS, OHIO, US AN: 122:287556, TAKASHI ABE: "Effect of Vespa amino acid mixture from hornet larval saliva on endurance exercise" XP002090087 & Mitsubachi Kagaku (1995), 16(1), 1-8 * abstract *	1-11	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) A61K
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 20 January 1999	Examiner Siatou, E
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

3
EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C04)

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (In I.C.I.6)
A	<p>DATABASE BIOSIS BIOSCIENCES INFORMATION SERVICE, PHILADELPHIA, PA, US AN: 1995: 340637, T. ABE ET AL : "Effects of Vespa amino acid mixture (VAAM) isolated from hornet larval saliva and modified VAAM on endurance exercise in swimming mice: Improvement in performance and changes of blood lactate and glucose" XP002090088 & Japanese Journal of Physical Fitness and Sports Medicine, 1995, vol. 44, no. 2, pp. 225-237 * abstract *</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	1-11	<p>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)</p>
<p>The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
BERLIN		20 January 1999	Siatou, E
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

10. Aug. 1998

CLAIMS:

AMENDED
CLAIMS

1. An amino acid composition comprising the following amino acids at the following molar ratio:

5	proline	12.6 to 23.4 moles
	alanine	8.4 to 15.6 moles
	glycine	13.3 to 24.9 moles
	valine	8.2 to 15.4 moles
	threonine	5.0 to 9.4 moles
10	leucine	4.3 to 8.1 moles
	histidine	1.8 to 11.9 moles
	serine	1.7 to 3.3 moles
	lysine	6.0 to 11.2 moles
	isoleucine	3.1 to 5.9 moles
15	glutamic acid	2.2 to 10.4 moles
	arginine	2.4 to 4.6 moles
	phenylalanine	2.6 to 5.0 moles
	tyrosine	4.2 to 7.8 moles
	and	
20	tryptophan	1.5 to 2.9 moles.

2. The amino acid composition of claim 1 comprising the following amino acids at the following molar ratio:

	proline	14.4 to 21.6 moles
25	alanine	9.6 to 14.4 moles
	glycine	15.2 to 23.0 moles
	valine	9.4 to 14.2 moles
	threonine	5.8 to 8.7 moles

	leucine	5.0 to 7.5 moles
	histidine	2.0 to 11.0 moles
	serine	2.0 to 3.0 moles
	lysine	6.8 to 10.4 moles
5	isoleucine	3.6 to 5.4 moles
	glutamic acid	2.5 to 9.6 moles
	arginine	2.8 to 4.2 moles
	phenylalanine	3.0 to 4.6 moles
	tyrosine	4.6 to 7.2 moles
10	and	
	tryptophan	1.7 to 2.7 moles.

3. The amino acid composition of claim 1 comprising the following amino acids at the following molar ratio:

15	proline	16.2 to 19.8 moles
	alanine	10.8 to 13.2 moles
	glycine	17.1 to 21.1 moles
	valine	10.6 to 13.0 moles
	threonine	6.4 to 8.0 moles
20	leucine	5.5 to 6.8 moles
	histidine	2.3 to 10.1 moles
	serine	2.2 to 2.8 moles
	lysine	7.7 to 9.5 moles
	isoleucine	4.0 to 5.0 moles
25	glutamic acid	2.8 to 8.8 moles
	arginine	3.1 to 3.9 moles
	phenylalanine	3.4 to 4.2 moles
	tyrosine	5.4 to 6.6 moles

and
tryptophan

1.9 to 2.5 moles.

4. The amino acid composition of claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of histidine is 6.4 to 11.9 moles and that of glutamic acid is 5.6 to 10.4 moles.
5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the amino acid composition of any one of claims 1 to 4 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.
6. A supplementary liquid which comprises the amino acid composition as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4.
7. A food comprising the amino acid composition of any one of claims 1 to 4.
8. Use of the amino acid composition as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4 for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition or an amino acid composition which can supplement blood amino acids reduced during hard exercise to improve motor function, to reduce the fatigue after exercise and to help recovery from the fatigue.
9. Use of an amino acid composition comprising the following amino acids at the following molar ratio for the preparation of an amino acid composition which can supplement blood amino acids reduced during hard exercise to improve motor function, to reduce the fatigue after exercise and to help recovery from the fatigue:

proline	12.6 to 23.4 moles
alanine	4.2 to 7.8 moles
glycine	13.3 to 24.9 moles
valine	4.1 to 7.7 moles
threonine	5.0 to 9.4 moles
leucine	4.3 to 8.1 moles
histidine	1.8 to 3.8 moles
serine	1.7 to 3.3 moles
lysine	6.0 to 11.2 moles

	isoleucine	3.1 to 5.9 moles
	glutamic acid	2.2 to 4.2 moles
	arginine	2.4 to 4.6 moles
	phenylalanine	2.6 to 5.0 moles
5	tyrosine	4.2 to 7.8 moles
	and	
	tryptophan	1.5 to 2.9 moles.

10. The use of the amino acid composition as defined in any one of claims 1
 10 to 4 for the preparation of an amino acid composition which can restrain the
 change in blood amino acid level to keep the level constant.

11. The use of the amino acid composition as defined in claim 9
 for the preparation of an amino acid composition which can restrain the
 15 change in blood amino acid level to keep the level constant.